

House File 2370

HOUSE FILE _____
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BOAL, SODERBERG, and LUKAN

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a positive alternatives
2 program and providing an appropriation.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 5607HH 82
5 pf/nh/14

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1 1 Section 1. POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM. The department
1 2 of human services shall establish a positive alternatives
1 3 program to provide core services consisting of information,
1 4 education, counseling, and support services to women who
1 5 experience unplanned pregnancies by promoting childbirth over
1 6 abortion, assisting pregnant women in remaining healthy and
1 7 maintaining a healthy pregnancy while deciding whether to keep
1 8 the child or place the child for adoption, and assisting the
1 9 woman after the birth of the child. The services provided may
1 10 include but are not limited to: counseling and mentoring;
1 11 pregnancy, childbirth, parenting, and abstinence classes;
1 12 fostering of a statewide pregnancy and parenting support
1 13 system; assistance with physical and mental well-being of a
1 14 woman during pregnancy and post-delivery; assistance with the
1 15 physical well-being of the fetus and newborn; assistance with
1 16 food, shelter, clothing, health care, childcare, and
1 17 employment; and other supportive programs and services. The
1 18 department shall award grants to service providers that have
1 19 been in existence for at least one year prior to the awarding
1 20 of the grant and that are experienced and qualified in
1 21 providing core pregnancy support services that promote
1 22 childbirth over abortion and parenting support services,
1 23 including but not limited to pregnancy support organizations,
1 24 maternity homes, social service agencies, and adoption
1 25 agencies.
1 26 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the
1 27 fund created in section 8.41 to the department of human
1 28 services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and
1 29 ending June 30, 2009, from moneys received under the federal
1 30 temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) block grant
1 31 pursuant to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work
1 32 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104=193,
1 33 and successor legislation, which are federally appropriated
1 34 for the federal fiscal years beginning October 1, 2007, and
1 35 ending September 30, 2008, and beginning October 1, 2008, and
2 1 ending September 30, 2009, the following amount, or so much
2 2 thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
2 3 designated:
2 4 For the positive alternatives program:
2 5 \$ 250,000
2 6 Positive alternatives grants shall be awarded to service
2 7 providers that have been in existence for at least one year
2 8 prior to the awarding of the grant and that are experienced
2 9 and qualified in providing core pregnancy support services
2 10 that promote childbirth over abortion or in providing
2 11 parenting support services, including but not limited to
2 12 pregnancy support organizations, maternity homes, social
2 13 service agencies, and adoption agencies. Priority in the
2 14 awarding of grants shall be given to programs that serve areas
2 15 of the state which demonstrate the highest percentage of
2 16 unplanned pregnancies of females of childbearing age within

2 17 the geographic area to be served by the grant.

2 18 EXPLANATION

2 19 This bill directs the department of human services (DHS) to
2 20 establish a positive alternatives program to provide core
2 21 services consisting of information, education, counseling, and
2 22 support services to women who experience unplanned pregnancies
2 23 by promoting childbirth over abortion, assisting pregnant
2 24 women in remaining healthy and maintaining a healthy pregnancy
2 25 while deciding whether to keep a child or place the child for
2 26 adoption, and assisting the woman after the birth of the
2 27 child. The bill directs DHS to award grants to service
2 28 providers that have been in existence for at least one year
2 29 prior to the awarding of the grant that are experienced and
2 30 qualified in providing core pregnancy support services that
2 31 promote childbirth over abortion or in providing parenting
2 32 support services, including but not limited to pregnancy
2 33 support organizations, maternity homes, social service
2 34 agencies, and adoption agencies. The bill appropriates
2 35 \$250,000 to DHS from the temporary assistance for needy
3 1 families block grant for the program.

3 2 LSB 5607HH 82

3 3 pf/nh/14